

## WE AIM TO SAVE CHINA

President Makes an Offer to Russia and Japan.

## ASKS OTHER POWERS TO JOIN.

Plan for the "Localization of Hostilities."

seeks Guarantee of China's Neutrality During the War and of Her Integrity—Danger of Impairing All International Relations if Chinese Get Into the Row on One Side or the Other—Notice to the Combatants That There Must Be No Seizing Chinese Territory.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 9.—The United States Government has become an important factor in the Russo-Japanese conflict through action that is intended to have far-reaching consequences. The purposes which it has set out to accomplish are threefold and may be briefly stated as follows:

First—An agreement between the belligerents to confine their military operations to a certain area not yet defined, but intended to embody only Korea and Manchuria.

Second—A guarantee by the neutral Powers to Russia and Japan that China shall remain neutral during the period of the war.

Third—The preservation of Chinese integrity through making it impossible for China to give either combatant an excuse for seizing any part of the empire, and informing Russia and Japan that China's neutrality must be respected during and after the war.

To Germany belongs the credit of initiating the exchanges which have now brought the Powers to a consideration of the suggestions enumerated above. It is the understanding, however, that Germany sought only an arrangement with her neutral sisters in the family of nations by which China would be prevented from taking part in the Far Eastern struggle. Out of that suggestion grew the propositions which have been advanced by the United States and which have been communicated, through circular notes, to all the Powers concerned, including Russia and Japan.

While it is not possible to give details, THE SUN correspondent is authorized to say that the good offices of the President of the United States have been tendered to Russia and Japan to bring about an agreement between them for the "localization of hostilities," and that Great Britain, France, Germany, Austria-Hungary, Italy and other nations which took part in the suppression of the anti-foreign outbreak in 1900 and afterward in the peace negotiations have been invited to take the same course.

The object of the proposal is not only to confine military operations to the area that is politically involved, but to avert a renewal of disturbances which, it is feared, may occur in China if the theatre of hostilities is extended over the Manchurian border. Once these disturbances are begun there is no telling what may happen or how the relations of nations now friendly may become impaired. Should the Chinese, excited by the proximity of the belligerent armies, attempt to join issue with one side or the other the break-up of the Flowery Kingdom might become a certainty.

It is believed by this Government to be necessary, therefore, in order to carry out successfully the suggestion that China remain neutral, that the Russian and Japanese land forces confine their fighting to a limited portion of Chinese territory as possible.

But the more important object of the United States is to secure an understanding among the neutral states that, so long as China remains neutral, there should be no coercion for either Russia or Japan to annex any part of the empire.

With that purpose in view, Secretary Hay, by direction of the President, has addressed a circular note to all the Powers concerned, advocating concurrent action to induce China to preserve a strict neutrality between the two nations. It is intended to have the Chinese Government duly impressed with the gravity of the position in which she would be placed if she took sides in the conflict, and, failing to bring about the desired result by diplomatic means, to serve notice on the imperial authorities at Peking that they will not be permitted to become a party to the war, which has now begun.

In other words, this Government desires the neutral Powers to make China remain with them in their neutrality—through persuasion, if possible, through drastic measures if necessary.

It is proposed also by the United States that the neutral Powers inform Russia and Japan that the neutrality of China must be respected throughout the war and thereafter. This is, in fact, the most radical proposal which has been put forward by Secretary Hay.

While no official interpretation is given, there can be no doubt that it means that the neutral Powers should join to make it clear to the combatants that the other nations expect them, in spite of the differences which have brought them into a trial of strength, to adhere to the engagements entered upon by the nations which took part in the suppression of the Boxer troubles, to maintain the Chinese Empire as a territorial entity.

The negotiations, which have reached the important phase, were begun before the severance of relations between Russia and Japan, but it is understood that the

circular note of Secretary Hay was sent yesterday or the day before. Although such a short period has elapsed since its transmission, some responses have been received, but from what nations is not disclosed. All that it is now possible to say is that these responses were regarded as favorable to the object desired by this Government.

## FRENCH WARNING. "HANDS OFF!"

Others Must Not Seek to Profit During Her Ally's Struggle With Japan.

Special Cable Dispatch to THE SUN.  
PARIS, Feb. 9.—The Temps, which is frequently used as a mouthpiece by the French Foreign Office, publishes an important article, which is ascribed to Government inspiration. It contains the following:

"The whole world knows that France desires with a single heart the success of her ally. Existing treaties do not oblige France to participate in the present war, but France is the ally of Russia, and the alliance is close and general, implying a moral union, which under the stress of events might lead to fresh agreements.

"Consequently, while the Russians and Japanese fight their quarrel out, our silent immobility will paralyze all attempts that may be made by one quarter or another to profit by the struggle at the expense of our ally, and, in accord with those who wish to see the conflict localized, we shall, by our presence alone, effectively bar the way against any who may wish to extend it. Such is our duty to our ally, and we shall fulfill it. It is necessary that this be known at St. Petersburg and elsewhere, as it will constitute a guarantee for the limitation of the war to the present area.

"At the conclusion of the struggle, the issue of which, despite the illusions of the Japanese, is beyond doubt, France, disapproving the hopes of her rivals, will receive the reward of her fidelity to her plighted word."

The Temps says that Russia is about to take the most energetic measures.

In the course of a conversation the Military Attaché of the Russian Embassy, said: "Since they want war they shall have it with a vengeance."

## MARVEL AT JAPAN'S DARING.

European Naval Experts Think She Is Assured Now of Victory at Sea.

Special Cable Dispatch to THE SUN.

LONDON, Feb. 9.—Japan's daring coup in opening war on the strong Russian position at Port Arthur has astounded Europe. Not only is it indicative of the tremendous energy with which Japan will force the campaign, but it is regarded as an almost decisive blow so far as naval operations are concerned.

Naval experts here are of the opinion that the disembarkment of three of the best ships of the Russian fleet is sufficiently important to assure Japanese victory upon the seas.

All acquainted with the personnel of the Japanese navy and army agree that the war will be a constant series of dardanelle exploits, even riskier in character than the bold dash at Port Arthur last night. The best officers of the navy have been begging for torpedo boat service, in which they could undertake enterprises involving almost certain death. The real difficulty will be to restrain the men from flinging away their lives unnecessarily.

This quality is so well understood that the wild story of an attack on Port Arthur and the sinking of eleven Japanese ships found ready credence in the European capitals. This afternoon an explanation issued by the agency responsible for the publication of the story was received by the public with derision. It was announced naively that the rumor was circulated in St. Petersburg. It was not denied at first in official quarters and it was therefore telegraphed to New York.

The European public is already gaining the impression that the war will be short, sharp and decisive, and this is earnestly to be hoped for. There is even an impression that Russia, if driven from the seas, might be induced to make peace. This view, however, is considered to be far too optimistic.

In official circles the greatest interest is felt in the efforts of the United States to secure a careful restriction of the conflict within prescribed areas. The proposal will be strongly supported by all the Powers except, perhaps, Germany. The latter country is the danger point of the whole situation. It is everywhere believed that she will do her utmost to profit territorially and otherwise by the Far Eastern struggle.

Japan's statement, reviewing the history of the negotiations, was issued late to-night and has not yet reached the public, but it is safe to say that it will compel full recognition of the moderation of her demands and of the exemplary patience with which she urged them to the point where agreement became obviously hopeless.

## CARGO JAPAN MAY GET.

Steamer Korea on Her Way With Beef for Vladivostok.

SAN FRANCISCO, Feb. 9.—On board the Pacific Mail steamer Korea, leaving Honolulu yesterday for the Orient, is a shipment of supplies for Vladivostok, valued at \$44,496. It consists principally of fifty-one carloads of barrel beef, which is to be transhipped at Nagasaki to its destination. Now that war has begun, Japan's cruises are pretty sure to attempt to intercept the Korea and take off these supplies. There are slender chances that the supplies will ever reach Vladivostok.

The steamer Coptic, which left here on Jan. 13, carried a small shipment of beef for Vladivostok, but that was transhipped before the war began.

## HERE'S JAPAN'S CASE

Review of the Negotiations That Failed.

## RUSSIA'S MANCHURIAN STAND.

Firmly Declined to Give Any Guarantees.

Demanding a Neutral Zone in Corea, but Refused to Have One on the Other Side of the Yalu—Japan's First Offer Made in August—Russia Delayed Negotiations While Making Military and Naval Preparations Until Japan Felt Compelled to Break Them Off.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 9.—The Japanese Minister makes the following statement by authority of his Government:

"It being indispensable to the welfare and safety of Japan to maintain the independence and integrity of Corea and to safeguard her paramount interests therein, the Japanese Government finds it impossible to view with indifference any action endangering the position of Corea. Russia, notwithstanding her solemn treaty with China and her repeated assurances to the Powers, continues in occupation of Manchuria and has even taken aggressive measures on Korean territory. Should Manchuria be annexed to Russia the independence of Corea would naturally be impossible.

"Therefore, being desirous of securing the permanent peace of eastern Asia by means of direct negotiations with Russia, intended to secure a friendly adjustment of all questions relating to Manchuria and Corea, where the interests of Japan and Russia meet, the Japanese Government toward the end of last July addressed the Russian Government, having expressed its willingness to enter into negotiations, the Japanese Government on the 12th of last August, through its Minister at St. Petersburg, proposed a basis of agreement, which was substantially as follows:

"First—A mutual engagement to respect the independence and territorial integrity of China and Corea.

"Second—A mutual engagement to maintain the principle of equal opportunity for the commerce and industry of all nations in those countries.

"Third—Reciprocal recognition of Japan's preponderant interests in Corea and of Russia's special interests in railway enterprises in Manchuria, and mutual recognition of the right of Japan and Russia, respectively, to take measures for the protection of the above mentioned interests in so far as such measures did not violate the principle enunciated in Article I.

"Fourth—Recognition by Russia of the exclusive right of Japan to give advice and assistance to Corea in the interests of reform and good government.

"Fifth—An engagement on the part of Russia not to impede the eventual extension of the Korean railway to southern Manchuria so as to connect with the East China and Shanhaiwan-Newchwang lines.

"It was the original intention of the Japanese Government to have the negotiations take place at St. Petersburg, so that their progress might be facilitated and a satisfactory solution reached as quickly as possible. But the Russian Government absolutely refused to comply with this desire, on the plea of the czar's journey abroad and for several other reasons. It was, therefore, necessary to conduct the negotiations at Tokio, but it was not until Oct. 3 that the Russian Government replied to the proposals of August 12 and presented counter proposals.

"In the counter proposals the Russian Government positively refused to make any engagements to respect the sovereignty and territorial integrity of China in Manchuria or to agree to any stipulation for the maintenance of the principle of equal opportunities for the commerce and industry of all nations there and requested Japan to declare Manchuria and its littoral entirely without her sphere of influence.

"The Russians also proposed to restrict Japan's liberty of action in Corea in various ways. For instance, while recognizing Japan's right to send troops to Corea when necessary for the protection of her interests, Russia refused to allow her to use any portion of Korean territory for strategic purposes of any description. In fact, the Russian Government went so far as to propose the establishment of a neutral zone including all Korean territory north of the thirty-ninth parallel.

"The Japanese Government failed to see why Russia, who professed no intention of absorbing Manchuria, should be disinclined to insert in the convention a clause in harmony with her own repeatedly declared principle respecting the sovereignty and territorial integrity of China. Her refusal impressed upon the Japanese Government all the more strongly the necessity of such a stipulation as it had suggested. Japan has important commercial interests in Manchuria and entertains no small hope of her future development. Politically she has even more important interests, because of Manchuria's contiguity to Corea and the relations existing between the two.

Therefore the Japanese Government could not possibly recognize Manchuria as being entirely without Japan's sphere of interest, and for that reason it felt compelled absolutely to reject the Russian proposal in this behalf.

"The Japanese Government explained these views to the Russian Government, and at the same time suggested other necessary amendments to the Russian counter proposals. As regards the neutral zone, it was proposed that if one were created

it should be established on both sides of the boundary line between Corea and Manchuria, with an equal width on either side of say fifty kilometers. After full discussion at Tokio, the Japanese, on the 30th of last October, finally presented to Russia their definitive amendments.

"Although the Russian Government was frequently urged for a reply none was sent until the 11th of last December. In that reply the Russian Government insisted upon the suppression of all clauses relating to Manchuria, thus making the proposed agreement relate exclusively to Corea, and maintained the original demand relative to the non-employment of Corea territory for strategic purposes and the establishment of a neutral zone in Corea territory exclusively.

"The exclusion of Manchuria being in contravention of the original object of the negotiations, which was to remove all causes for conflict by a friendly agreement regarding the interests of both countries in Manchuria and Corea, the Japanese Government asked the Russian Government to reconsider the question.

"Among the numerous stipulations which Russia had included in the counter proposal was one, Article V., which read as follows: 'Mutual engagement not to use any part of the territory of Corea for strategic purposes nor to undertake in southern Corea any military works capable of menacing the freedom of navigation of the Straits of Corea.'

"The Japanese Government expressed its willingness to agree to the latter part of this proposed stipulation, and thereby to bind itself not to interfere with the free navigation of the Straits of Corea, but asked the Russian Government to consent to the omission of the first clause. The entire suppression of a neutral zone was also suggested, on the ground that if Russia objected to the erection of such a zone in Manchuria there was no good reason for establishing one in Corea.

"On the 6th of January the Russian Government replied to the last mentioned proposals. In this reply the following stipulation was proposed:

"Recognition by Japan of Manchuria and its littoral as being outside of her sphere of interest, while Russia, within the limits of that province, will not impede Japan or other Powers in the enjoyment of rights and privileges acquired by them under existing treaties with China, exclusive of the establishment of settlements.

"This stipulation was proposed, however, only on a condition of the maintenance of a neutral zone in Corea and the non-employment of any Korean territory for strategic purposes of any description, conditions the absolute impossibility of the acceptance of which by Japan had already been fully explained to the Russian Government.

"It should be further explained that in this last Russian counter proposal no mention at all was made of the territorial integrity of China in Manchuria. Such being the case, it is self-evident that Russia's proposed engagement to respect the treaty rights of Japan and other Powers in that province would be of no practical value so long as it is not accompanied by a definite stipulation regarding Chinese sovereignty, for as treaty rights are only consistent with sovereignty, the absorption of Manchuria by Russia would cancel all rights and privileges acquired there by virtue of treaties with China. Therefore, the Japanese Government regarded it as indispensable to obtain Russia's agreement to some stipulation recognizing the territorial integrity of Manchuria, and on the 13th of January formally requested a reconsideration by the Russian Government of this important point.

"To this representation, notwithstanding repeated requests, no reply was made, and no intimation given of when a reply would be made for a period far exceeding any real necessity for delay.

"The Japanese Government feels confident that it will be acknowledged that it has acted with moderation throughout the whole of these negotiations. It has asked nothing more from the Russians than the recognition of the principle which the Russians have repeatedly voluntarily declared an intention to respect.

"The representations it has made have not varied either in principle or in scope from the beginning, and it has always been willing, wherever it could be done without a sacrifice of principle, to agree to any honorable compromise that promised to promote friendly understanding. But it regrets to say that the convention has been forced upon it that the Russians did not feel themselves obliged to meet the proposals made on behalf of Japan in a spirit of equal impartiality and moderation Russia's replies to Japan's proposals have been unduly delayed, on the one hand, while, on the other, naval and military preparations on Russia's part have been steadily augmented. In fact, large forces of Russian troops are already on the Korean frontier.

"In view of these facts, the Japanese Government, while animated by a sincere desire for peace, feeling that it has exercised the utmost degree of patience, has been reluctantly compelled by Russia's action to abandon all hope of reconciliation and to break off negotiations."

## MORE WARSHIPS FOR JAPAN.

Reported to Have Purchased Three From Chile.

Special Cable Dispatch to THE SUN.

LONDON, Feb. 9.—It is reported that Japan has bought the Chilean warships Captain Prat, Chacabuco and Almirante Condell, that they are already ready for service, and will start for Nagasaki at once.

Charles R. Flint said yesterday that he did not believe that the Captain Prat and the Chacabuco had been sold to Japan.

"The Captain Prat was placed in the hands of my firm by the Chilean Minister," Mr. Flint said, "and we received a cablegram from the Chilean Government asking us to sell the Chacabuco. We offered them to Japan, but as yet have made no sale. Had any sale been made through our sources I think we should have heard of it."

A rumor came from Valparaiso early in January that Japan had bought the Captain Prat. She was built in 1890, and may be ranked as a third class battleship. Her maximum speed is 18.3 knots. Her tonnage is 6,901, and she has 12-inch armor. She carries four 9-inch guns and a secondary battery of quickfiring.

## SEA VICTORY.

Japan Wrecks 5 Ships at Port Arthur.

## SEIZES TWO MORE?

Varig and Koriets Reported Taken at Chemulpho.

## ARMY MOVING ON TO SEOUL.

Nine Russians Killed and Several Injured in Fight.

## Fleet at Port Arthur Taken by Surprise

When the Japanese Torpedo Boats Dashed In—Battleships Tzarevitch and Retzivan and the Cruiser Pallada Struck and Beached to Prevent Them Sinking in Deep Water—Japanese Fleet Returns After Daybreak and a Short Engagement at Long Range Follows—None of the Japanese Ships Damaged—Russian Fleet Stays Under Cover of Guns of Fort—Steamer Columbia Was in the Harbor—Members of the Crew Describe the Fight.

Special Cable Dispatches to THE SUN.

LONDON, Feb. 9.—Japan at the very outset of the war has struck her enemy a blow, the importance of which possibly cannot be overestimated, apparently deciding in the former's interest the balance of naval power in the Far East.

The battleships Tzarevitch and Retzivan and the cruiser Pallada now lie hopelessly crippled on the mudflats at Port Arthur as the result of an attack by the Japanese on Monday night.

In a second engagement Tuesday morning two more Russian ships were disabled.

THE VARIET CAPTURED.

But over and above this decisive stroke at Port Arthur, it is stated from two or three sources that the Japanese have also captured the first class cruiser Varig and a smaller vessel at Chemulpho, Corea.

These reports, although, unlike the Port Arthur disaster, they lack Admiral Alexieff's confirmation, are circumstantial. They state that a strong Japanese torpedo division, escorted by cruisers conveying transports, suddenly arrived at Chemulpho on Sunday. A number of foreign vessels lay at anchor, including the Varig and the torpedo gunboat Koriets.

Apparently they did not expect an attack any more than did the somnolent fleet at Port Arthur, for when the Japanese commander summoned them to haul down their flags they were completely surprised, and in view of the overwhelming strength of the Japanese they had no alternative but to comply, which they did, say the reports, without firing a shot.

JAPANESE VICTORY AT PORT ARTHUR.

CHEFOO, China, Feb. 9.—The steamer Columbia, which has arrived here, was in the roads outside Port Arthur harbor when the Japanese made their attack on the Russian warships.

The first torpedo explosion occurred about 11 P. M. The shock was so great that it was felt by the Columbia.

THREE RUSSIAN SHIPS BEACHED.

The attack continued all night, and at daybreak two of the Russian battleships and a cruiser were seen disabled and beached near the entrance to the harbor. The Russian cruiser had a bad list. The Russian forts later fired at the Japanese fleet at a range of about three miles. The Japanese replied, hitting several of the Russian ships, but little damage was done.

The Russian cruisers then went outside the harbor and the Japanese disappeared. The latter were afterward seen proceeding toward the Russian port of Dally, apparently undamaged.

Although the officers of the Columbia say that seventeen Japanese vessels took part in the attack, another steamer, which has arrived at Fuchow from Dally, and which passed through the Japanese fleet, reports that only sixteen were counted, namely, six battleships, four cruisers and six other vessels. They were then eighteen miles from Port Arthur, and steaming to the southeast.

AS A MEMBER OF THE CREW SAW IT.

One of the Columbia's crew says that the Columbia was lying in the roadstead at Port Arthur, surrounded by fourteen Russian warships, when a severe shock was felt. The Russians immediately began using their searchlights and firing seaward. The firing was maintained only for a brief time.

At 2 o'clock in the morning two battleships steamed toward the shore and were run on the beach across the entrance to the harbor. They were soon followed by a cruiser, which was also beached.

SECOND BATTLE AT LONG RANGE.

At 10 o'clock in the morning three Japanese cruisers passed Port Arthur within sight of the Russians. The whole Russian fleet weighed anchor and started in pursuit of them, but returned in half an hour, leaving a cruiser outside to watch the Japanese squadron. The latter fired on the cruiser, whereupon another Russian war-

ship weighed anchor and cruised around.

The Japanese fleet came within three miles of the Russians, and a battle began. The Japanese fired at the ships and forts which replied. Some of the Japanese shells struck the Russian ships, but only damaged them slightly. The Russian fire fell short.

The Columbia left while the battle was proceeding, but later she saw the Japanese ships leave.

One Japanese cruiser and several torpedo boats are reported northward of Chefoo.

ADMIRAL ALEXIEFF'S REPORT.

ST. PETERSBURG, Feb. 9.—The Official Messenger to-day publishes a telegram from Admiral Alexieff, Russian Viceroy of the Far East, to the czar.

He reports that Japanese torpedo boats last night made a sudden attack on the Russian squadron at Port Arthur.

The battleships Retzivan and Tzarevitch and the cruiser Pallada were damaged. An inspection is being made to ascertain the amount and character of the damage.

The attack was made in the outer roads of Port Arthur, where the Russian fleet has been lying.

The Japanese made the attack at 1:45 in the morning. The boats discharged their torpedoes, damaging the three ships above mentioned, and escaped unharmed. The Viceroy's report follows:

"I most respectfully inform your Majesty that about midnight on Feb. 8, nine Japanese torpedo boats made a sudden attack by means of mines upon the Russian squadron in the outer roads of the fortress of Port Arthur, in which the Retzivan, Tzarevitch and Pallada were damaged.

"An inspection is being made to ascertain the character of the damage. Details are following for your Majesty."

DAMAGE AND FATALITIES IN SECOND FIGHT.

The second engagement between the fleets was described in a telegram from Admiral Alexieff's chief of staff:

"By order of the Viceroy I beg to report that this day, about 11 o'clock in the morning, a Japanese squadron, consisting of about fifteen battleships and cruisers, approached Port Arthur and opened fire.

The enemy was received with a cannonade from the shore batteries and the guns of our squadron, which also participated in the engagement.

"At about midday the Japanese squadron ceased its fire and left, proceeding south.

"Our losses in the fleet were two officers wounded, nine men killed and forty-one men wounded. On the shore batteries one man was killed and three were wounded. The battleship Poltava and the cruiser Novik each had a hole knocked in her side below the water line. The forts were slightly damaged."

RUSSIANS RECEIVE THE NEWS SILENTLY.

For the first time popular interest in the crisis was displayed after the publication of Admiral Alexieff's despatch, which was copied from the Official Gazette and issued on special fly-sheets by the newspapers. The news was read silently, with full recognition of its purport, but there was no noisy demonstration. Indeed, the attitude of the public in its self-restraint recalled that displayed in London during the dark days of the Boer war.

CEAR PRAYS FOR DIVINE BLESSING.

Later, when it became known that a solemn service of intercession to beg the Divine blessing upon the enterprise to which the nation is committed was to be held at the church of the Winter Palace, crowds began to gather, but nowhere was there seen any great manifestation of fervor. Such a manifestation would not be compatible with the Russian character.

The service was held by special order of the czar. His Majesty, with his mother on his arm, headed the procession of the imperial family on foot to the church. A long train of Ministers, functionaries, naval and military officers followed. The czar's bearing deeply impressed the onlookers. The service was performed with all the imposing ritual of the Orthodox Greek Church and was most impressive.

ENTHUSIASM AT LAST SHOWN.

Upon its conclusion the vast crowd in the square outside the palace vented its patriotism in cheering heartily. Late this evening the city had its normal appearance. The court ball was not held.

An imperial manifesto declaring that a state of war exists is expected to-morrow.

TOOK RUSSIANS BY SURPRISE.

LONDON, Feb. 10.—Another Chefoo despatch, written by a correspondent on board the Columbia, makes it apparent that the Russians at Port Arthur were taken completely by surprise.

The lighthouse was illuminated and the channel lights were burning. Only one Russian warship was using her searchlight, and was doing it in a leisurely manner.

Three torpedo boats were patrolling on the outskirts of the fleet. All the other torpedo boats were inside the basin. Everything was tranquil.

The sky was clear and the weather was not cold. Russian officials had told the officers of the Columbia that they expected the Japanese in three or four days.

The correspondent's story of the explosions and the awakening of the Russians concurs with the previous story. He then describes the Tzarevitch and Retzivan as they were run ashore to prevent them from sinking in deep water.

They now lie across the narrow of the entrance of the harbor in a helpless condition. They are very close together, but do not block the entrance except to ships of heavy draught.

The Retzivan was struck forward by a torpedo and the Tzarevitch aft.

The correspondent continues, saying that the moon was shining, but no enemy was visible. At daybreak there were disclosed

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on the horizon three two-funnelled cruisers flying the flag of the Rising Sun of Japan. They came boldly to within long distance range and remained calmly watching for two hours.

After daybreak a strange apathy seemed to possess the Russians. White-faced, gaping men crowded the forward decks of the damaged vessels. For a long time after the anchors of the other warships were weighed none of them showed any disposition to chase the Japanese or fire a single shot.

Finally, the Japanese left. This was at 8:20 o'clock. They were then pursued by the Russian fleet, which proceeded toward Dally.

## THE SECOND ENGAGEMENT.

Concerning the reappearance of the Japanese, the correspondent says that about 11 o'clock in the morning thirteen Japanese ships, including five battleships, appeared on the horizon in fine order.

At 11:15 o'clock came first a flash from a Japanese vessel. This landed a shell near the torpedo boats and disabled battleships. The aim was splendid.

Owing to the confusion of the quarantine officials, or perhaps because the Russians thought the Japanese would dislike to fire near the British flag, the Columbia had been left lying close to the Russian fleet and in the line of fire, so that the Japanese shells aimed at the battleships fell thickly around her. Several bursting nearly strewn her deck with splinters.

Capt. Anderson then got under way, although he was ordered by the Russians not to leave, and despite the protests of the Russian guards aboard, who were eventually taken to Chefoo, the vessel was brought out of her excessively dangerous position, running near the shore, and then making full speed for Chefoo.

## THE COLUMBIA'S ESCAPE.